

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application.

Claim 6 was object to.

Claims 1-14 were provisionally rejected.

Claim 6 has been amended.

Reconsideration of Claims 1-14, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In Section 1 of the December 11, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner asserted that the present application did not contain a required reference necessary to claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 to a previously filed U.S. patent application. The present application has been amended to correct this oversight.

In Section 2 of the December 11, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner noted that the IDS filed on January 2, 2003 could not be found in the file and requested that the Applicant provide an additional copy of the IDS. The Applicant is submitting herewith an additional copy of the January 2, 2003 IDS.

In Section 3 of the December 11, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification for failing to make reference to the prior application. The Applicant notes that the specification was amended above to include a reference to the previously filed patent application.

In Section 4 of the December 11, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claim 6 because it failed to reference the parent claim. The Applicant has amended Claim 6 to include the number of the independent claim upon which Claim 6 depends.

In Sections 5-7 of the December 11, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejected Claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that of Claims 1-14 of co-pending United States Patent Application No. 09/839,727 and Claims 1-14 of co-pending United States Patent Application No. 09/839,734. The Applicant respectfully asserts that no action is required in the present application. However, the Applicant reserves the right to make future amendments to the present application and/or to United States Patent Application Nos. 09/839,727 and 09/839,734, as may be hereafter required..

**SUMMARY**

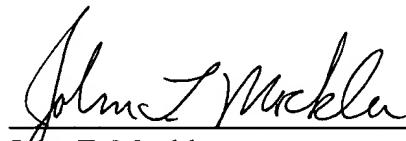
If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *wmunck@davismunck.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Davis Munck Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIS MUNCK, P.C.

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John T. Mockler  
Registration No. 39,775

P.O. Drawer 800889  
Dallas, Texas 75380  
(972) 628-3600 (main number)  
(972) 628-3616 (fax)  
E-mail: *wmunck@davismunck.com*